

Message Text

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17

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 EB-07 AID-05

MCT-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /124 W

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R 070034Z DEC 76

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1443

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA--ITEM 70, ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE
ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF POLITICAL, MILITARY, ECONOMIC
AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO COLONIAL AND RACIST
REGIMES

REF: USUN 5009

1. SUMMARY. THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON ITEM 70, ADVERSE
CONSEQUENCES, WAS ADOPTED NOV 30 IN PLENARY BY A VOTE
OF 97-11(US)-28. THE RESOLUTION CONDEMNS THE US,
FRANCE, UK, FRG, ISRAEL AND JAPAN FOR POLITICAL, ECO-
NOMIC AND MILITARY TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA. THE RANKS
OF THOSE ABSTAINING WERE SWELLED BY THE USSR AND EASTERN
EUROPEAN BLOC COUNTRIES WHO FOUND THEMSELVES OBLIGED
TO ABSTAIN BECAUSE OF A CALL FOR A STUDY OF THE VETO
POWER AND THUS WERE FORCED TO FOREGO THEIR SOLIDARITY
WITH AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PLENARY COMPLETED ACTION NOV 30 ON ITEM 70,
ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES. THE DRAFT RESOLUTION (DOCUMENT
A/31/331) WHICH, INTER ALIA, EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER
USE OF THE VETO POWER BY THE UK, FRANCE AND THE US,
AND STRONGLY CONDEMNS FRANCE, FRG, US, UK, ISRAEL,
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AND JAPAN FOR COLLABORATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA, WAS

APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 97-11(US)-28.

3. THE FRG CONVINCED THE EC-9 THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CALL FOR A SEPARATE VOTE ON OPERATIVE PARA 3, WHICH CONDEMNS THE FRG, US AND OTHERS. THE EC-9 HAD DECIDED AGAINST SUCH A MOVE IN THIRD COMMITTEE BECAUSE THE NETHERLANDS AND PERHAPS OTHERS WOULD HAVE VOTED "NO" ON THE PARA AND THEN BROKEN EC-9 RANKS TO ABSTAIN ON THE WHOLE RESOLUTION. THE EC-9 AGREED TO VOTE "NO" ON BOTH OPERATIVE PARA 3 AND ON THE RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE AND THE FRG THEREFORE DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE SEPARATE PARA VOTE. THE FRG ALSO DID EXTENSIVE LOBBYING IN CAPITALS ON THIS RESOLUTION. THEY FELT PARTICULARLY STRONG TO BE FOR THE FIRST TIME THE OBJECT OF CONDEMNATION BY NAME.

4. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE US WAS CRITICIZED IN OTHER PARAS OF THE RESOLUTION, WE PREFERRED TO LOBBY, AS IN THIRD COMMITTEE, FOR ABSTENTIONS ON THE RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE. THE SEPARATE PARA VOTE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN DEMONSTRATING THE EXTENT OF DIVIDED OPINION OVER CONDEMNATION OF COUNTRIES BY NAME, BUT WAS NOT WITHOUT COST TO US, AS IT ALLOWED A FEW DELEGATIONS TO EASE THEIR CONSCIENCE WITH AN ABSTENTION ON OPERATIVE PARA 3 AND A "YES" VOTE ON THE WHOLE. THE FINAL VOTE IN PLENARY WAS 97-11(US)-28. THE THIRD COMMITTEE VOTE WAS 87-12(US)-31.

5. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IS THE EMBARRASSMENT EXPERIENCED BY THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPEAN BLOC (EXCEPT ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA WHO VOTED "YES") WHO WERE OBLIGED TO ABSTAIN ON THE RESOLUTION AS A RESULT OF OPERATIVE PARA 8 CALLING FOR A STUDY BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF THE EFFECT OF THE USE OF THE VETO ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THIS AGENDA ITEM, A STUDY OF ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, WAS PROPOSED BY THE SOVIET DELEGATE AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S SUB-COMMISSION IN 1972 AND HAS BEEN USED EVER SINCE BY THE EASTERN BLOC TO CRITICIZE THE US AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES FOR THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLICIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND TO DEMONSTRATE SOVIET SOLIDARITY WITH AFRICA. THE SOVIET DELEGATE WORKED HARD TO PRESSURE THE AFRICANS TO REMOVE THE OFFENDING PARA 8 BUT HAD NO SUCCESS. THIS SOVIET PRESSURE REPORTEDLY CAUSED A CERTAIN AFRICAN BACKLASH AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN RALLYING AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR THE WEST ON THE BELGIAN AMENDMENT IN CONNECTION WITH AGENDA ITEM 76, SELF-DETERMINATION (SEPTTEL) AND FOR THE VOTE

ON OPERATIVE PARA 3.

6. THOSE VOTING "NO" ON THE RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE
WERE: BELGIUM, DENMARK, FRANCE, FRG, IRELAND, ITALY,
JAPAN, LUXEMBOURG, NETHERLANDS, UK, US; ISRAEL;
WHICH HAD VOTED "NO" IN THIRD COMMITTEE, WAS ABSENT.

ABSTAINING: AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BULGARIA,
BYELORUSSIA SSR, CANADA, COSTA RICA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA,
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, FINLAND, GDR, GUATEMALA, HAITI,
HUNGARY, ICELAND, IRAN, MONGOLIA, NEW ZEALAND,
NICARAGUA, NORWAY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PARAGUAY,
PORTUGAL, SPAIN, SWEDEN, TURKEY, UKRAINIAN SSR, USSR,
AND URUGUAY.

ABSENT: CAPE VERDE, CAR, GAMBIA, HONDURAS, ISRAEL,
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, SEYCHELLES, AND SOUTH AFRICA.

ALL OTHERS VOTED "YES."

7. THE VOTING ON OPERATIVE PARA 3 (CONDEMNING THE US,
ETC.) WAS AS FOLLOWS:

VOTING "YES" WERE: AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ALGERIA,
ARGENTINA, BENIN, BULGARIA, BURUNDI, BYELORUSSIAN SSR,
CHAD, PRC, COMOROS, CONGO, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECHOSLOVAKIA,
DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA, DEMOCRATIC YEMEN, EGYPT, EQUATORIAL
GUINEA, ETHIOPIA, GABON, GDR, GHANA, GRENADA, GUINEA,
GUINEA-BISSAU, GUYANA, HUNGARY, INDIA, IRAQ, JAMAICA,
JORDAN, KENYA, KUWAIT, LAO PEOPLES DEM. REP., LESOTHO,
LIBYA, MADAGASCAR, MALI, MAURITANIA, MEXICO, MONGOLIA,
MOZAMBIQUE, NIGERIA, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, POLAND,
QATAR, ROMANIA, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE,
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SOMALIA, SRI LANKA, SUDAN, SYRIA, TOGO, T&T, TUNISIA,
UKRAINIAN SSR, USSR, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, CAMEROON,
TANZANIA, YEMEN, YUGOSLAVIA, ZAMBIA.

VOTING "NO" WERE: AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM,
CANADA, CHILE, DENMARK, FINLAND, FRANCE, FRG, ICELAND,
IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, JAPAN, LUXEMBOURG, NETHERLANDS,
NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, SPAIN, SWEDEN, UK, US,
URUGUAY, VENEZUELA.

ABSTAINING: BAHAMAS, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BHUTAN,
BOLIVIA, BOTSWANA, BURMA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA,
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, FIJI, GREECE,
GUATEMALA, HAITI, INDONESIA, IRAN, IVORY COAST, LIBERIA,
MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALDIVES, MOROCCO, NICARAGUA, NIGER,

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PARAGUAY, PERU, PHILIPPINES, RWANDA,
SINGAPORE, SURINAM, SWAZILAND, THAILAND, TURKEY, UGANDA,
UPPER VOLTA, ZAIRE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, HUMAN RIGHTS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, MEETING VOTING RECORDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN05932
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760451-0051
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761264/aaaacdkp.tel
Line Count: 173
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 USUN NEW YORK 5009
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 31ST UNGA--ITEM 70, ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF POLITICAL, MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO COLONIAL AN
TAGS: SHUM, EAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006